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Summary record of the 18th meeting
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Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe ..... (Cameroon)
Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Torres Lépori

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/66/375 and A/66/545)

1. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Officer-in-Charge, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts), introducing the Secretary-General's note on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (A/66/375), recalled that, by its resolution 65/296, the General Assembly had approved a budget of $1,416.9 million for the maintenance of the Mission. Pending completion of the planning for the electoral process, the approved budget had covered only resource requirements related to the staffing of the Electoral Assistance Division and the initial estimated requirements for the movement of electoral materials in the amount of $3,420,000.

2. By its resolution 1991 (2011), the Security Council had extended the mandate of MONUSCO and decided that it should support the organization and conduct of national, provincial and local elections through the provision of technical and logistical support as requested by the Congolese authorities.

3. In response to the request by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, additional resources in the amount of $74,560,100 would be required for logistical support for elections to be held in November 2011 and March 2012. Accordingly, total requirements for the Mission for 2011/12 were now estimated at $1,491.5 million.

4. The additional resources covered the cost of warehouses ($0.5 million), the deployment of aircraft for the distribution of electoral materials and the transportation of electoral officials and observers ($62.6 million), and freight charges for the transportation and distribution of electoral materials ($11.5 million).

5. The actions requested of the General Assembly were set out in paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's note.

6. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/66/545), said that the resources requested were primarily for the contracting of 20 additional aircraft, at a total cost of $62,575,100, for the distribution of electoral materials to hubs and sub-hubs throughout the country and the transportation of some 3,300 electoral officials and observers. Noting that the Secretary-General had amended the requirements from 20 to 31 additional aircraft, the Advisory Committee underlined the importance of the efficient management of those aircraft and their effective integration into the Mission's existing aviation capacity in the most efficient manner possible. The Advisory Committee expected that the Secretary-General would not exceed the total amount of $62,575,100 proposed for air transportation in support of the elections.

7. At the current stage of implementation of the Mission's budget, and given the size of the current appropriation, it should be possible for MONUSCO to absorb some of the cost of logistical support for the elections. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate and assess the full amount requested and that it should request the Secretary-General to assess an initial amount of $37,280,000 and assess the remaining amount, as required, following a review of the Mission's cash position.

8. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal but expressed concern that it was being presented just a few days prior to the presidential and parliamentary elections to be held in November 2011 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He wished to know how MONUSCO would be able to support those elections.

9. The Group attached great importance to the election process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a means of improving political stability and bringing lasting peace to the country and the region. The Mission should provide all necessary support for the elections in accordance with its mandate.

10. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Officer-in-Charge, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts), responding to the question raised by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, said that election preparations were under way in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and that the timing of the present submission would not prevent MONUSCO from discharging its mandate. Further details would be provided to the Committee in informal consultations.

Agenda item 134: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (*continued*) (A/66/516 and A/66/7/Add.10)

11. **Mr. Sach** (Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services), introducing the Secretary-General's report on revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 30, Office of Information and Communications Technology, related to the organizational resilience management system (A/66/516), said that, while the Secretariat had previously pursued a programme approach to preparedness in which units were responsible for emergency management, the earthquake in Haiti, bombings of United Nations premises elsewhere and the planning for the threat of pandemic influenza had highlighted the interdependence of each element of emergency management and the need for a holistic approach. The senior emergency policy team had accordingly approved a pilot project in which the organizational resilience management system served as the emergency management framework for the Secretariat in New York.

12 The pilot project had been implemented by an interdepartmental and inter-agency group led by the Business Continuity Management Unit with the aim of producing the methodology to implement the organizational resilience management system. During the risk and impact assessment phase, it had been determined that the secondary data centre would be needed to manage the risk of disruption to critical information technology functions. The programme of work to maintain the data centre had been included in the present report to demonstrate a practical application of the organizational resilience management system. A further requirement identified by the impact assessment was the ability to communicate with staff and determine their status in a crisis. For that reason, funding was requested to expand the emergency notification system and automate the maintenance of essential information in emergency preparedness plans.

13. The organizational resilience management plan could not be implemented and sustained without dedicated programme management. To that end, it was proposed to convert three temporary positions in the Business Continuity Management Unit and two temporary positions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support into established posts.

14. The overall resource requirements under the regular budget arising from the implementation of the proposals in 2012-2013 amounted to $3,141,300, representing the estimated cost of extending the lease on the secondary data centre for 30 months as from 31 December 2011 and procuring specialized software to maintain emergency preparedness plans and expand the emergency notification system.

15. The report described the first stage of implementation of a comprehensive emergency management framework in the Secretariat. With guidance from the General Assembly, a second stage would follow. The main objective was to establish an integrated framework which continuously enhanced risk management, thereby improving preparedness, response, continuity and recovery in the face of disruptive events. The Assembly was requested to endorse the organizational resilience management system as the Secretariat's emergency management framework and approve the proposed budgetary provisions and lease extension.

16. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/66/7/Add.10), said that the Secretary-General's report (A/66/516) did not fully respond to the request for a comprehensive emergency management framework set out in General Assembly resolution 64/260. The proposed system could not be regarded as comprehensive because its full scope and the total resources required for its operation had not yet been determined. While the Advisory Committee recognized the difficulty of bringing a series of initiatives implemented by different departments into a cohesive whole, it was of the opinion that greater efforts should have been made to map out the final shape and size of the organizational resilience management system, even if some of the elements were not ready for full implementation.

17. With respect to the Emergency Preparedness and Support Team, the Advisory Committee acknowledged the need for an assessment before further resources were requested for the Team, but had expected that the assessment would have been completed for the current session. So as to provide the Assembly with a complete picture of the scope of the organizational resilience

management system at the earliest opportunity, the Advisory Committee recommended that the results of the needs assessment should be included in the follow-up report on the emergency management framework to be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and that any resource requirements should be submitted in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

18. On the system-wide application of the organizational resilience management system, the Advisory Committee had noted the efforts made to establish inter-agency cooperation mechanisms for business continuity management and emergency preparedness; it regretted, however, that the Secretary-General had not explored the issue in more depth in his report. The follow-up report should present a full picture of the measures taken and envisaged to extend the scope of the system to cover the agencies, funds and programmes and should include any financial and administrative implications.

19. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the resources requested in the amount of $3.14 million for the secondary data centre in Piscataway, New Jersey, and for software for the maintenance of emergency plans and staff emergency contact information; those requirements should be considered in accordance with the provisions governing the contingency fund.

20. The Advisory Committee recommended against the conversion to established posts of three positions in the Business Continuity Management Unit, as it was premature to establish dedicated staff capacity before the full scope of the organizational resilience management system, including the resource requirements, was known. It also recommended that the Secretary-General should resubmit his proposal for the conversion to established posts of two positions in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support in the context of the proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for 2012/13, since the positions were funded from that account.

21. The Committee's recommendations on the actions to be taken by the General Assembly were set out in paragraph 32 of its report (A/66/7/Add.10).

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.